

# Pueblo exchange

A Partnership for Safe Chemical Weapons Destruction

## Road and Fence Construction Begins

*continued on page 2*

### Fall 2005 In This Issue

*Government Accepts Revised Plant  
Design Concept*  
back page

*Community Roundtable Opens Discussion  
With Local Leaders*  
page 3

*Education Outreach Program Gears Up for  
School Year*  
page 5

*Battelle Memorial Institute to Provide  
\$5,000 in Pueblo Scholarships*  
page 6

*Outreach Office Adds New Specialist*  
page 7

### Pueblo Chemical Stockpile Outreach Office

104 West B Street  
Pueblo, CO 81003  
(719) 546-0400  
Hours 8:30 a.m.–5 p.m., M–F  
Other hours by appointment

Pueblo Chemical Depot  
Public Affairs Office  
(719) 549-4135



Pueblo Chemical Agent-  
Destruction Pilot Plant  
[www.pmacwa.army.mil](http://www.pmacwa.army.mil)

## Pilot Plant Stage One Construction Under Way



*Bechtel Safety Manager Terry Wells and subcontractor RBK Construction Superintendent Mike Dockter review plans while RBK Construction Laborer Sal Acuna connects a brace rail for the fence that is currently being installed as part of Stage One construction for the PCAPP project at the U.S. Army Pueblo Chemical Depot.*



*Bechtel Pueblo Team employees Mark Hunter, lead civil field engineer; Ed Snatchko, construction manager; and Bill Tate, project field engineer, discuss plans for the Stage One construction, which includes building a new access road, a new access control point and fencing. The fencing and road contracts were awarded to RBK Construction of Rye, Colo.*



## At a Glance ...



### Employment

Bechtel Pueblo Team all locations . . .	138
Pueblo-based staff . . . . .	47
Local hires . . . . .	17

### Subcontracting



\$2.2M	Firms outside Colorado—14%
\$2.8M	Colorado firms outside Pueblo—18%
\$10.9M	Pueblo firms—68%
\$15.9M	Total value of subcontracts

## Road and Fence Construction Begins at U.S. Army Pueblo Chemical Depot

Construction crews are at work along a five-mile corridor on the northern end of the U.S. Army Pueblo Chemical Depot, installing roads and fencing for the Pueblo Chemical Agent-Destruction Pilot Plant (PCAPP).

Ed Snatchko, construction manager for the Bechtel Pueblo Team, and his staff are supervising the work of subcontractors who are installing 5.8 miles of roadway and 46,000 linear feet of security fencing.

“We’re building the ‘Northwest Passage’ road to connect the plant site with the Department of Transportation road. We’re also installing security fencing along that corridor and around the plant,” Snatchko explained. (See map below.)

RBK Construction Co. of Rye, Colo., was the successful bidder for both the road construction (estimated value of \$6.75 million) and the fencing (\$2.5 million).

The Northwest Passage road will allow construction traffic to access the PCAPP site via the Department of Transportation road that connects the Pueblo Airport Industrial Park with the Transportation Technology Center. “By using this route, we’ll keep construction traffic off of Highway 50,” Snatchko explained.

A consortium of White Shield, Inc., of Kennewick, Wash., and C&M Consultants LLC of Pueblo is supporting the work with surveying services.

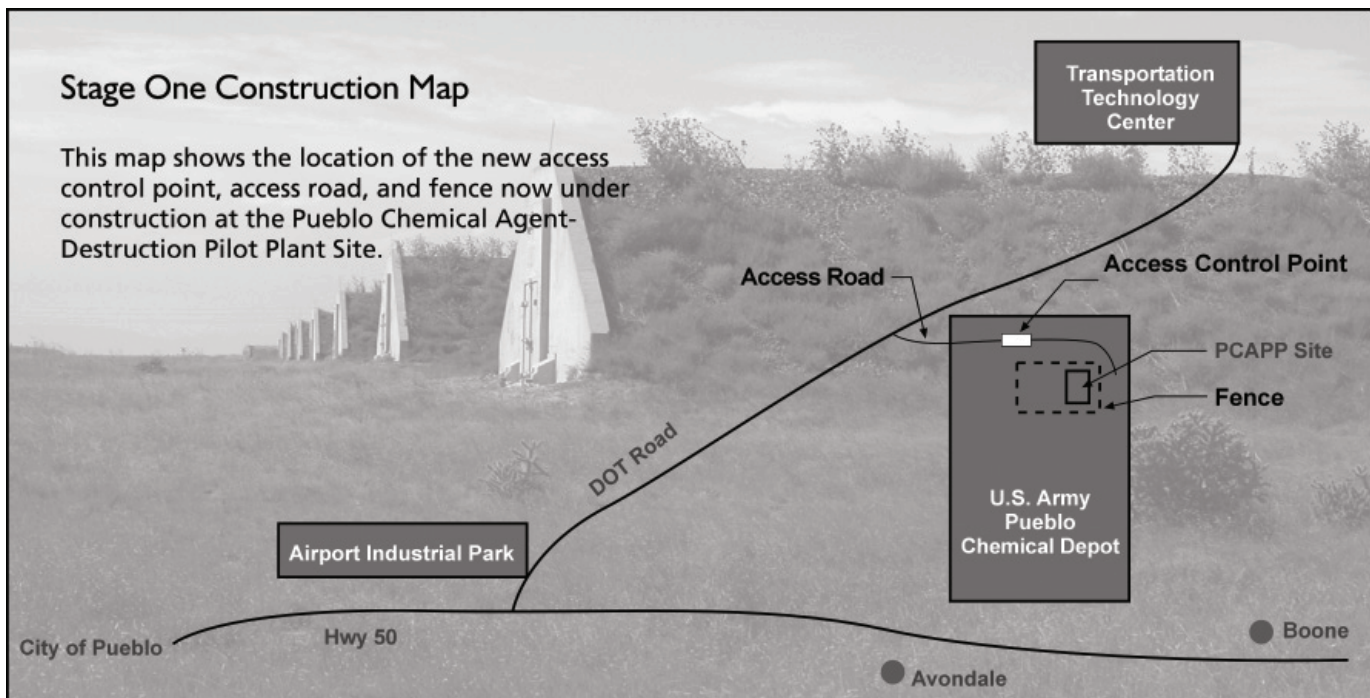


Bechtel's Safety Manager Terry Wells and subcontractor RBK Construction's Mike Dockter review plans for the new fence.

*continued on page 3*

### Stage One Construction Map

This map shows the location of the new access control point, access road, and fence now under construction at the Pueblo Chemical Agent-Destruction Pilot Plant Site.



## Community Roundtable Opens Discussion With Local Leaders

By MARILYN THOMPSON

Consistent, open communication is an important element of success for any project, as Lt. Col. John M. Riley, commander, U.S. Army Pueblo Chemical Depot; Gary Anderson, Pueblo Chemical Agent-Destruction Pilot Plant (PCAPP) site project manager; and Joe Nemec, project manager, Bechtel Pueblo Team, proved by hosting a community roundtable meeting with local elected officials on Sept. 8 at the Pueblo Chemical Stockpile Outreach office.

Doug Fitzgerald, assistant Pueblo city manager; Greg Severance, director, Pueblo County Public Works; and Rich Simpson, project manager for Pueblo County, attended the roundtable and received updates by the three hosts. Discussion flowed openly and freely.

Riley provided an update on the status of the mustard vapor detections in the two depot storage structures. He also talked about the Part A submittal to the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment's (CDPHE) letter of intention on declaring the entire depot chemical weapons stockpile to be hazardous waste. Riley also indicated that negotiations are continuing with representatives of the department as to what will be required as part of the Part A submittal.

Nemec updated the group about contract awards and let them know that approximately 83 percent of the subcontract dollars have been awarded to Pueblo County businesses.

Anderson discussed the PCAPP design schedule and several important milestones that will occur in the next 12 months. The



*(Clockwise from left) Bechtel Pueblo Team Project Manager Joe Nemec, Lt. Col. John Riley, and PCAPP Site Project Manager Gary Anderson bring community leaders Rich Simpson, program manager for Pueblo County; Doug Fitzgerald, assistant Pueblo city manager; and Greg Severance, public works director for Pueblo County, up to date regarding the status of the PCAPP project.*

intermediate design is due to the Program Manager Assembled Chemical Weapons Alternatives by the end of February 2006. Bechtel plans to submit eight technical design packages starting in mid-December 2005 and deliver the final package in February 2006. The PCAPP permit will need to be modified to reflect the new design. A permit modification will be submitted in the spring of 2006 and it is expected that the revised permit will be issued in September 2006. In a continuing effort to have a transparent process for environmental permitting, the CDPHE will be included in every step of the design process.

As the roundtable session wrapped up, discussion on the Defense Access Road

(DAR) project was raised. The Department of Defense has approved the DAR funding request and is preparing to send it to Congress for approval. Congress will have 30 days to act on the department's request. Completion of the DAR project is critical to ensure that the required infrastructure is in place to support the heavy construction traffic.

Roundtable meetings will continue to benefit both the hosts and the invitees by providing the most current information on the chemical weapons stockpile storage and disposal. The next community roundtable, with local business leaders, is scheduled for Oct. 20.

*Marilyn Thompson is the public affairs officer for the U.S. Army Pueblo Chemical Depot.*

## Road and Fence Construction Begins

*continued from page 2*

Work on this \$150,000 subcontract is being managed from C&M's Pueblo office.

Kleinfelder, Inc., of Pueblo is providing soils and concrete testing under a \$230,000 subcontract.

As a safety precaution, Blackhawk Geo Services of Denver surveyed the road and fence construction area for unexploded ordnance and other potential hazards. The survey team found and removed a variety

of metal objects. Those that had the potential to contain explosives were disposed of by an Explosive Ordnance Disposal team from Ft. Carson.

In addition to the road and fencing, the current phase of construction will include construction of a major security checkpoint on the Northwest Passage road. The Bechtel Pueblo Team expects to award a subcontract for that work this fall.



## Interim Resident Engineer for U.S. Army Takes Helm in Pueblo

When looking to fill the resident engineer position temporarily at the U.S. Army Pueblo Chemical Depot, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers looked no further than Don Haring, a 30-year employee who has extensive experience in high-value construction projects.

“My career has focused on large, high-dollar complex projects,” said Haring. “My experience has been with construction projects at other chemical demilitarization sites [Blue Grass in Kentucky and Umatilla in Oregon] as well as medical building construction at Ft. Sam Houston in Texas.”

Haring came to Pueblo in August from the Blue Grass site, but most recently he helped provide oversight to the Russian chemical demilitarization program for the U.S. Defense Threat Reduction Agency.

“While in Pueblo, my main goal is to get construction going,” stated Haring. “Right now, we will construct approximately 46,000 linear feet of fence, 5.8 miles of roadwork, and an access control point building.”

A Texas native, Haring graduated from Texas

A&I University at Kingsville with a civil engineering degree. He has been working for the U.S. Army ever since. His work experience also includes working half of his career in San Antonio on facilities at four different military installations; in Germany as the project engineer for Army/NATO projects; and at Ft. Greeley, Alaska, working on the missile defense program. In 1997, he was posted to Oregon as the assistant resident engineer for the Umatilla Chemical Agent Disposal Facility. Haring is filling the vacancy in Pueblo left by Tom Minyard, who is the new area engineer at Ft. Stewart near Savannah, Ga.

In addition to providing construction and design management to the Assembled Chemical Weapons Alternatives program, the roughly 35,000 civilian and military members of the Army Corps of Engineers are responsible for design and construction support to the Army, Air Force and sometimes the Navy, as well as carrying out their unique federal civil works mission.

When asked how he likes Pueblo, Haring responded, “so far, so good,” and is looking



Don Haring

forward to seeing as much of the area during his stay until a permanent replacement arrives to take over.

In his spare time, Haring likes to ski, jog, read and play poker. “I’ve already been to Cripple Creek [one of three Colorado towns where gaming is legal],” he said.

## McHarg Park Community Celebrates Three Years



When Avondale, Colo., residents celebrated McHarg Park's third anniversary on Aug. 11, the PCAPP outreach office staff was on hand to talk with them about what's happening with the project. Local dignitaries attending the event included Citizens' Advisory Commission President John Klomp, Pueblo County Commissioner Anthony Nunez and Lt. Col. John Riley, commander of the U.S. Army Pueblo Chemical Depot. (Left) Community Outreach Manager Bob Kennemer talks to future Pueblo-area residents about chemical weapons and what the PCAPP project is doing about them and (above) Rosemary Patterson of the outreach office explains the effect of mustard agent to a Spanish-speaking resident.

## Education Outreach Program Gears Up for 2005-06 School Year

When Cindy Elm-Sinn started doing educational presentations on chemical warfare about two years ago, she had no idea how in demand her program would be today.

“At first, I started working with just the teachers and then I started doing presentations to the students, and they were so interested in the history that it ended up being the main focus for the presentations,” said Elm-Sinn. Today, Elm-Sinn still reaches out to the educational community, but now many teachers call her to give presentations to their classrooms.

About 2,000 students each year attend Elm-Sinn’s presentations. Students from first grade to high school have the opportunity to hear about a variety of topics, including history of the U.S. Army Pueblo Chemical Depot, Pueblo Chemical Agent-Destruction Pilot Plant and neutralization/biotreatment; history of warfare strategies, trench warfare and chemical warfare; and the history of protective measures and warning devices for chemical warfare. To these presentations, Elm-Sinn brings her own collection of gas masks and protective wear used by soldiers in World War I and World War II that she purchased on eBay. “I’ve got quite a memorabilia collection,” Elm-Sinn said. “These pieces intrigue and pique the interest of the students.”

***“It’s important that they understand real-life issues and what is happening in their own community.”***

— Cindy Elm-Sinn

With over 30 years’ experience in education, Elm-Sinn has devoted 18 of those years to the classroom, having taught at all levels—elementary, middle school, high-school and college. So, she knows a bit about grabbing students’ attention. In addition, she served as the science curriculum specialist and coordinator for the Gifted and Talented program for Pueblo District #60 and was the coordinator for several National Science Foundation grants.



*Children from Avondale, Colo., listen as Cindy Elm-Sinn explains to them the history of chemical warfare and its use in World War II. Included among Elm-Sinn’s vast collection are demilitarization protection ensembles (DPE) for infants and children and gas masks for toddlers as well as adults and animals.*

Elm-Sinn’s presentations have learning objectives that correlate with the Colorado Model Content Standards for Social Studies in the areas of civics, economics, history and geography. Her initial inter-disciplinary presentation can be expanded to include one or more of the following curriculum additions:

- The Mock Public Forum. Civics, economics and language arts teachers find this unit meets many of the state standards required of their students. Students spend the week learning about the Pueblo chemical stockpile destruction project and the people and organizations involved. They then hold a classroom forum where students play roles of various people involved (Citizens’ Advisory Commission member, city council member, environmental activist, local business leader, Bechtel project manager, depot commander, etc.). Parents are invited to participate in the audience during the forum.
- World War I Trench Life and Gas Warfare. This unit offers extensions for history classes by bringing to life gas warfare and its

effects on the lives of soldiers. Students can actually try on uniforms and are able to see and hold actual artifacts of that era.

- Sustainable Development. Science and social studies teachers find this topic is of global and local concern.
- Neutralization/Biotreatment. Science departments can provide their students with face-to-face interactions with real scientists as they explain the PCAPP process of destroying the mustard agent.
- Robotics in Industry. Physics teachers can augment their program with real-life applications of a theoretical science.

“Kids are going to be in this community while this project is going on,” Elm-Sinn said. “It’s important that they understand real-life issues and what is happening in their own community.”

This year, the focus on the education outreach program will be aimed at schools where presentations haven’t been made. “I’m looking forward to the start of this school year,” Elm-Sinn stated. “Teachers have begun calling me to schedule the presentations, so it’s going to be a very productive year.”



## Battelle Memorial Institute to Provide \$5,000 in Pueblo Scholarships

Students attending Colorado State University-Pueblo (CSU-Pueblo) and Pueblo Community College (PCC) who major in math, science or engineering will soon be able to compete for \$5,000 in scholarship money provided by Battelle Memorial Institute, a global science and technology enterprise.

Battelle is part of the Bechtel Pueblo Team that is leading the chemical stockpile destruction effort at the U.S. Army Pueblo Chemical Depot. Headquartered in Columbus, Ohio, Battelle has a long history of distributing charitable funds in those communities where the company has a presence.

"There are many satisfying aspects of working with the Bechtel Pueblo Team and the stakeholders to destroy the Pueblo Chemical Depot stockpile, but none compare with our opportunity to become part of the Pueblo community, and as a Battelle employee, to facilitate Battelle charitable contributions for the furtherance of education," stated John McArthur, program manager for Battelle and Bechtel Pueblo Team's environmental manager. "It is my hope that, as the project and Battelle local staffing levels grow, we will be able to expand this program."

The scholarship money, \$2,500 for each educational institution, is available to all students who are studying math, science or engineering at CSU-Pueblo or PCC.

CSU-Pueblo students who are full-time and have declared a major in either the sciences (biology, chemistry or physics) or math may apply for the scholarship money this semester. "CSU-Pueblo is very appreciative of this generous gift from Battelle for math and science students," said Scott Shrode, executive director of University Development for the CSU-Pueblo Foundation. "This comes at a time when math and science are playing pivotal roles in our country's ability to remain competitive in the workplace."

Students at PCC will be able to apply for the scholarship in January, and the money will be awarded for the fall 2006 semester. "PCC serves over 8,000 students on three campuses. Of these students 80 percent are low income and need financial assistance to attend college," said Diane Porter, executive director of the PCC Foundation. "They are nontraditional students, average 29 years of age, and are usually single parents with full-time jobs. Every dollar we get goes toward assistance to our students, so we very much appreciate the scholarship money."

Battelle was founded in 1929 as a charitable foundation by Gordon Battelle. He established the foundation to fund research and science for the betterment of mankind. Today, Battelle has a staff of 19,000 scientists, engineers and support specialists and is involved in thousands of technology projects for nearly 1,000 companies and government agencies.

## PCAPP Reaches Out to the Boone and Avondale Communities



Pueblo Chemical Stockpile Outreach Office employees teamed with Pueblo County Chemical Stockpile Emergency Preparedness Program (CSEPP) employees Anna Gonzales and Alicia Johnson and Marilyn Thompson, public affairs officer for the U.S. Army Pueblo Chemical Depot at the Boone, Colo., weekly bread distribution on Sept. 6. (Above) A Boone resident stops to talk with Sandy Romero, and (right) Bob Kennemer listens as Johnson explains emergency preparedness procedures to an interested citizen.



Outreach Office staff Bob Kennemer, Rosemary Patterson and Sandy Romero teamed with CSEPP staff at the weekly bread distribution event in Avondale on Sept. 1. Approximately

40 people stopped by to find out more about the project. Kennemer dubbed this event "one of the best things we've done" in reaching out to migrant workers.

## Outreach Office Adds New Community Outreach Specialist

When Sandy Romero first heard that she would be moving back to her native Pueblo, she began assessing possible career opportunities. Ironically, about the same time, the Bechtel Pueblo Team had placed an ad in the local newspaper for a community outreach specialist.

"I immediately applied for the job," Romero said. "I thought it would be a perfect fit." And so it was. Romero began working in the Pueblo Chemical Stockpile Outreach Office at the end of June. "Even though I had never worked on chemical demilitarization issues before, I saw it as a perfect opportunity to work with local, state and federal officials about chemical weapons destruction," she said. In addition, her father, Virgil Torres, retired from the Pueblo Army Depot after more than 30 years of service assembling weapons, including the Pershing, Cruise, Hawk and Ajax missiles.

After graduating from Pueblo South High School and then Colorado State University-Pueblo (at the time called the University of Southern Colorado) with a bachelor's degree in mass communications, Romero headed off to Denver to begin her public relations career. Over the next 20 years, she had the opportunity to work in public relations for both city and state governments. Her work experience includes being the publications manager for the Colorado Lottery; the public relations manager for the Colorado Tourism Board; and the marketing director for the Tivoli Student Union at the Auraria Higher Education Center. A few years later, she became the first-ever appointed communications director for former Denver District Attorney (DA) Bill Ritter, Jr.

Along the way, she went back to school and obtained another bachelor's degree in Spanish and a master's degree in information and learning technology (ILT) from the University of Colorado-Denver. "I had always wanted to learn Spanish, so I decided to get a degree in it—one class at a time," she said. "When I started working at Auraria [home to three higher education institutions], one bonus was tuition credit. I decided on the ILT program because I wanted to become more familiar with the use of technology and applying it

to the business world."

That decision paid off. Romero left the DA's office to become a full-time mother. At the time, Denver Parks and Recreation was looking for a contract Web master, and Romero was able to work from home while raising her two sons. This went on for nearly five years until her husband filled the athletic director position at School District #60 in Pueblo. He came to Pueblo a year ago in August, and Sandy and their two sons moved here this past June.

"I'm very happy to be back," Romero said. "In some ways, it's like I've never left. My parents live five minutes from us and the people here are still wonderful."



*Sandy Romero listens to concerns from Avondale's primarily Spanish-speaking residents at the community's weekly bread distribution.*

In the meantime, Romero is busy learning about the history of the U.S. Army Pueblo Chemical Depot and the entire Pueblo Chemical Agent-Destruction Pilot Plant project. Feel free to contact her with any questions at (719) 296-5904.

## Edgewood Office Completes Mission

The Army's storefront outreach office in Edgewood, Md., closed Sept. 30 now that workers at the Aberdeen Chemical Agent Disposal Facility (ABCDF) have successfully eliminated the storage risk once posed by Aberdeen Proving Ground's mustard agent stockpile.

The U.S. Army Chemical Materials Agency's (CMA) Edgewood Chemical Stockpile Outreach Office has served as the base of operations for CMA's community outreach efforts since 1997.

"The Outreach Office has provided an invaluable service to the residents of Harford, Baltimore, Cecil and Kent counties as a single source of information about the ABCDF mission of safely eliminating the proving ground's mustard agent stockpile," said ABCDF Site Project Manager Joseph Lovrich. While the outreach office will physically close its doors, CMA recognizes the importance of

keeping the community informed of progress made at the ABCDF.

Since opening its doors in 1997, outreach office staff supported 92 notable site visits from local, national and international dignitaries; contacted more than 20,000 individuals through meetings, tours, presentations, information booths and outreach office visits; and distributed more than 500,000 information products, including newsletters, progress update mailers, fact sheets and videos. Outreach efforts also resulted in more than 1,500 media contacts throughout the last eight years.

The U.S. Army Chemical Materials Agency is responsible for safely storing and eliminating the United States' aging chemical weapons and agent stockpiles and safely eliminating recovered chemical material.

# Government Accepts Revised Plant Design Concept

Construction of the Pueblo Chemical Agent-Destruction Pilot Plant (PCAPP) became one step closer with the government's acceptance of a concept for a plant redesigned to lower life-cycle cost.

The revised design concept was submitted to the government in July in response to the Defense Department's guidance to achieve a better balance between cost, schedule and performance objectives by targeting the project's life-cycle cost at \$1.7 billion. "The government has given Bechtel the authority to begin the redesign effort," said PCAPP Site Project Manager Gary Anderson. "The next step is for the Bechtel team to complete a 60 percent design, which should be done by February 2006."

The revised concept was developed with significant public input from the Design Options Working Group, a committee of the Citizens' Advisory Commission. A series of meetings were held over the summer so members of the community would have the opportunity to offer comment, recommendations and input regarding the project.

Since receiving the government's authorization to proceed, the Bechtel Pueblo Team has begun redesigning the plant, using the engineering staff at their San Francisco and Frederick, Md. offices. The redesign is expected to incorporate as much of the original design as possible without exceeding the life-cycle cost target. A complete review of the 60 percent redesign by ACWA and the Department of Defense (DoD) is expected to last until August 2006.

"Right now, we're trying to get the 2007 budget aligned properly to start the actual construction of the plant in October 2006," Anderson said. "Once the 2007 budget is determined, the DoD will put together a Program Objectives Memorandum, a long-term budgeting document that will program funds for fiscal years 2008-2013."

Before the Program Objectives Memorandum can be completed, a 60 percent design review by ACWA and the DoD has to be accomplished and the project's life-cycle cost estimate must be developed. Once the design review and the budgeting document are complete, then a new Acquisition Program Baseline will be established. This baseline will establish schedule milestones and the funding necessary to reach those milestones.



Pueblo Chemical Stockpile  
Outreach Office  
104 West B Street  
Pueblo, CO 81003